



**ANNUAL REPORT
of the
STANDING COMMITTEE
ON RESOURCES**

1987

**Dr. Merryl Lawton, D.D.S., M.L.A.
Chairman**

**The Third Session of the
Fifty-Fourth General Assembly**

**REPORT
to the
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
of the
STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES**

1987

Presented by:

**Dr. Merryl Lawton, D.D.S., M.L.A.
Chairman**

The Third Session of the Fifty-Fourth General Assembly

**Report of the
Standing Committee on Resources**

The Committee

The Standing Committee on Resources was established by the House of Assembly on March 27, 1987. The members of the Committee are:

Dr. Merryl Lawton, M.L.A., Chairman
The Honourable Milne "Mel" Pickings
Mr. Donald Cameron, M.L.A.
Mr. Donald G. MacLeod, M.L.A.
Mr. Jack Coupar, M.L.A.
Mr. Neil LeBlanc, M.L.A.
Mr. Harold Huskilson, M.L.A.
Mr. James Barkhouse, M.L.A.
Mr. Bob Levy, M.L.A.

Secretary:
Mrs. Joan M. Kelly

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference of the Standing Committee on Resources are set forth in the Rules and Forms of Procedure of the House of Assembly, page 41, **COMMITTEES**, 60 (2), for greater certainty:

(e) the Resources Committee is established for the purpose of considering matters normally assigned to or within the purview of the Ministers and Departments of Agriculture, Fisheries, Tourism, Lands and Forests, and Environment. 1987 R. 60 (2).

The Report

The Report of the Standing Committee on Resources was prepared by Ms. Dianne M. Stillman of the House of Assembly Committees Office. The Committees Office is responsible for the clerical and administrative support of the committees.

**Report of the
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Minister Not on Committee

(5A) With the exception of the Attorney General, who shall serve as Chairman of the Law Amendments Committee, no Minister shall be appointed to a Standing Committee established for the purpose of considering matters normally assigned to or within the purview of that Minister or that Minister's Department.

Acknowledgements

The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Witnesses for their time and co-operation. The Committee also thanks Province House staff, and the staff of the Committees Office.

The Committee acknowledges, with gratitude, the co-operation of Mr. Speaker, Arthur R. Donahoe, Q.C. and his staff.

Meetings Held

<u>Date</u>	<u>Represented</u>
April 8, 1987	Preliminary Meeting - No Witnesses
April 14, 1987	Department of Fisheries
April 28, 1987	Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture
May 12, 1987	Department of Tourism
May 26, 1987	Nova Scotia Forest Products Association
Sept. 16, 1987	Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia
Sept. 23, 1987	Meeting Only - No Witnesses
Oct. 14, 1987	Dept. of the Environment
Nov. 25, 1987	Ecology Action Centre

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**Preliminary Meeting
April 8, 1987**

After considerable discussion, the Committee reached a consensus on a tentative agenda. The Chairman agreed to contact the following organizations and invite them to appear:

AGRICULTURE

- Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture
- Nova Scotia Mink Breeders Association

FISHERIES

- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Aquaculture Association of Nova Scotia
- Independent Seafood Producers of Nova Scotia
- Inshore Fishermen Associations (various)
- Seafood Producers Association of Nova Scotia

FORESTRY

- Nova Scotia Forest Products Association
- Forest Management Groups (various)

TOURISM

- Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

April 14, 1987

Witness: Dr. D. A. MacLean
Deputy Minister

In his opening remarks, the Witness addressed problems within the fisheries of Nova Scotia, some of which are considered by the Department to be quite serious.

Points Raised

Groundfish Industry

The Department has some very real concerns with regard to the groundfish industry:

- a) The introduction of fish buyers' licenses last year (in the context of groundfish exports) - they feel that the issuance of licenses to non-Canadians should be studied in depth.
- b) The department feels that processing should be encouraged within Nova Scotia. The witness noted that the export of 60 million pounds of unprocessed groundfish is equivalent to the loss of 600 man years of employment.
- c) The practice of transferring unused groundfish quotas between the inshore and offshore industries should be based upon which sector produces the greater good of the province.
- d) Free Trade, in their view, would benefit the groundfish industry, given the current substantial tariff on fully processed fish sticks and portions.

Scallop Industry

The Witness noted that there are now seventy-six (76) offshore licensees in the scallop industry but the total number of vessels in this particular fishery will probably drop to forty-five to fifty (45-50) in the next few years. Currently, the cost of a scallop vessel could range from \$3-4 Million.

Department of Fisheries
...continued

Clam Industry

The federal government regulates and enforces the clam fishery and has recently issued clam fishing licenses to three enterprises to fish the offshore Banquereau area. The provincial government, however, is planning a study to suggest an improved management regime.

Aquaculture

Grants are not currently available for fishermen in this industry because there are presently one hundred (100) aquaculturists in the province who have managed on their own. Grants to new operators would severely disadvantage those who are already established.

Aquaculture research is being carried out by both the Department of Fisheries and the Technical University of Nova Scotia (TUNS).

Fisheries Loan Board

Approximately \$10 Million is available for loans this year and to date, enough applications have been received to utilize the entire allotment.

Getting Started in the Industry

It is becoming increasingly difficult for young people to get into the fisheries due, in the department's view, to the following circumstances:

- a) the prohibitive cost of licenses; and
- b) the lack of emphasis placed on training by both the provincial and federal governments.

The department considers the following measures to be necessary in order to ensure the industry of qualified personnel:

Interim Report
Standing Committee on Resources

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Department of Fisheries
...continued

- a) a \$1 Million training budget; and
- b) each fishing boat operator should be required to have Fishing Masters Papers, as some vessels are being operated by unqualified individuals.

Enforcement of Regulations

The Witness noted that regulations are difficult to enforce, since there are only two (2) enforcement agents. This is particularly true with regard to size limit on cod (17" in Nova Scotia and 16" in Newfoundland).

The Department is also concerned that penalties are not severe enough to act as a deterrent to violators of licensing policies.

NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

April 28, 1987

Witnesses: Mr. Lloyd Evans
 President

 Mr. Lester Settle
 Secretary-Manager

Observers: Hon. Roger Bacon
 Minister of Agriculture

 Executive of the Nova Scotia Federation
 of Agriculture:

 Mr. John Vessiers
 Mr. Donald Downe
 Mr. John MacLean
 Mr. Guy Sanders
 Mr. Case Vande Sande
 Ms. Rita Mitchell
 Ms. Donna Langille

In their opening remarks, the Witnesses made reference to two documents: 1) Presentation to the Resources Committee of the House, and 2) Presentation to the Hon. Roger Bacon, Minister of Agriculture & Marketing, which were distributed to the Committee members.

Points Raised

Stream Bank Erosion Policy

It is the opinion of the Federation that since the Stream Bank Erosion Policy was transferred from Agriculture to Environment, "it has not been a very satisfactory policy from the point of view of Nova Scotia farmers." Although the program is supported by a cost-sharing arrangement (75% government/25% farmer), in recent years, it "has not been adequately funded to even allow the farmers to access it."

The Federation strongly suggests that the Departments of Agriculture and Environment should make a cooperative effort to review and adequately fund this policy "for the sake of good soil conservation practices."

Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture
...continued

Free Trade

Federation members are very concerned about their position in the free trade negotiations, since, in their view, the Hon. Pat Carney has made conflicting statements with regard to agriculture and tariffs. They are adamant in their view that they "do not want any lifting of controls whereby our agricultural supply management systems will be put in a negative position." They have passed this message on to the Nova Scotia Members of Parliament. The Federation urges the House of Assembly to make a clear statement with regard to the agricultural aspects of free trade.

Despite a trade dispute with the United States, the Federation would have no objection to the importation of onions, provided there were no Nova Scotia onions available.

Land Tax Exemption

Members of the Federation are concerned "that land tax exemption is not strictly enforced". Further, they feel that "full utilization of all available land should be encouraged by the assessment and tax systems".

Decline in Membership

The twenty-six (26) farmers who left the Federation did so for a one year period in an effort to recover legal fees. Of the twenty-six (26), twelve (12) - from Annapolis County - have returned. The Queens County group have not been approached to date.

Road Conditions

The following resolutions:

1. Sloping roadway ditches in agricultural areas should be maintained to allow adequate stability for farm vehicles travelling on the shoulder and to allow mowing of grass and weeds along the edges of fields.

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Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture
...continued

2. Right-of-way areas should be seeded during maintenance operations to prevent erosion.
3. Caution signs are required at intervals of trunk highways frequently used by farm tractors and machinery.

were passed at the Annual Meeting of the Federation held in December 1986.

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

May 12, 1987

Witnesses: Mr. Armand Pinard
 Deputy Minister of Tourism

 Mr. Dan Brennan
 Director of Marketing

The opening remarks of the Witnesses focused on the ways in which the tourism industry has grown and the revenues generated as a result.

Points Raised

Income

The tourism industry brings in approximately \$650 Million per year to the province and provides an estimated 28-29,000 full and part-time jobs.

Growth Potential

As a result of the following developments:

1. a marked increase in convention facilities;
2. a "Winter Wonder Line" - wherein individuals may telephone and make enquiries concerning events taking place during the Winter season; and
3. an increase in Winter occupancy rates,

among others, tourism could conceivably become a year-round industry.

An increase in "rubber tire" traffic during 1986 amounted to 4.5%. Traffic from the United States increased by 6.4% in 1986. Inquiries by telephone and correspondence to the Department's Portland, Maine office increased by 47% in 1986 over 1985 with telephone enquiries alone up by 24%.

Department of Tourism
...continued

**Tourism Degree Program -
Mt. St. Vincent University**

The Department has been very pleased with the results of the degree program which commenced in September of 1986. The students who have completed their first year in the program have all successfully found summer employment within the tourism industry.

Advertising

Advertisements promoting Nova Scotia appear in many newspapers and magazines with a total circulation of 50 million. Magazines included in this group are:

- Wedding Bells
- Brides
- Chateleine (French Version)
- Yankee
- Outdoors
- Fly Fisherman
- Outside

Most of these magazines contain "pop-cards" with which readers can make specific enquiries of the Department.

The advertising budget for 1987 was \$3 Million and was arranged through private sector partnership. Many companies have cooperated financially in the promotion of tourist events and a good portion of this assistance is used towards the cost of advertising. Further, there is a good spirit of cost-sharing among the four Atlantic Provinces in cooperative programs.

Tourism Markets

There are five (5) prime tourism markets. These include: 1) urban (city type experience); 2) mainstay (seasonal); 3) outdoor; 4) resort and 5) cultural (different enough to appeal to the U.S. market).

Department of Tourism
...continued

The Canadian east coast is the "honeymoon destination" of 33% of all Americans who come to Canada on their honeymoon.

The Department is currently involved in promoting Nova Scotia in Europe, particularly in the British Isles and Germany.

Festivals

Nova Scotia has been one of five locations selected for a national test on cultural promotions.

The International Gathering of the Clans, one of the key programs for this year, takes place every year in a different part of the world, however, it occurs every four years in Nova Scotia.

For people interested in becoming involved in festivals, there are a series of seminars made available to them each year throughout the province.

Select Committee on Tourism

The Department feels the Select Committee's Report was well-written and logical and one of the best that has come to their attention in some time. In dealing with some of the recommendations of the Report:

1. Check-Inns has brought in a Director of Travel Information to work with the Department of Tourism.
2. The Department has set up a rating and grading system with TIANS and the Innkeepers Guild.

Further, the Department has acted on each recommendation and continually refers to them.

NOVA SCOTIA FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION

May 26, 1987

Witnesses: Mr. Dale Sproule
 President

 Mr. Matthew Wright
 2nd Vice-President

 Mr. Lorne Etter
 Executive Director

In opening remarks, the Witnesses quoted from a written presentation which they circulated to all Committee members.

Points Raised

**Gas Tax -
Road Access Program**

The sales tax collected on fuel consumed on privately-owned access roads is totally reimbursed to the industry in the form of assistance for the construction and maintenance of access roads. Members of the Association, who pay an annual membership fee of \$50, are eligible to apply annually for up to \$1600 in assistance to build and maintain access roads.

The program has assisted in the construction of 3,700 miles to date, giving access to 10% of the total forest land in the province which was previously inaccessible. Roads are constructed according to approved standards and specifications set out by the Association's Access Road Committee.

Energy from Woodchips

Woodchips are formed from the residues of harvesting and manufacturing operations and trees of no commercial value. Some of the benefits of this source of energy are:

1. the provision to consumers of a low-cost fuel;
2. the creation of direct employment;

Nova Scotia Forest Products Association
...continued

3. the generation of new markets and income for previously unsaleable products;
4. the expansion of forest management (a prime concern) with less financial assistance; and
5. the reduction of air pollution.

The Association feels that serious consideration should be given to Cogeneration, which they define as "the production of two (2) forms of energy from one fuel source". The witnesses noted, however, that this is not viable, given the present cost of electricity.

Employment Opportunities and Training

The forest industry directly and indirectly accounts for approximately 30,000 jobs in Nova Scotia.

A sawmill training complex is being constructed in Fredericton and training begins later this year. However, the Association has a major concern in that it has been their experience that most programs have a large number of trainees who have no intention of making forestry a career. This results in a serious shortage of qualified personnel in the industry. The Association feels that the forestry industry should have input into the selection of trainees.

Forest Protection and Management

The successful control of forest fires in this province's more than 10 million acres of forest land is due largely to:

- 1) a well-trained fire suppression crew,
- 2) the availability of helicopters, and
- 3) early detection.

Nova Scotia Forest Products Association
...continued

Although spraying is a controversial subject, the Association feels that, in certain areas, pesticides and herbicides must be used together with sound forest management. The gypsy moth, which arrived in Nova Scotia in 1980, is not currently a problem, but if not controlled, could prove to have an even more devastating effect than the spruce bud worm did in Cape Breton.

Forestry Policy

The Association is in agreement with the Report of the Select Committee on Forestry and with the establishment of the new Forestry Policy and encourages the Minister to proceed on appointing:

1. a Forestry Advisory Council, comprising of nine (9) appointed members from various regions with various forestry interests. (Forest Enhancement Act, May 1986);

...The Association feels this should be non-partisan in nature and that they should have some representation on the Council.

2. the Nova Scotia Primary Forest Product Marketing Board, comprised of seven (7) members; and
3. a Chief Forester.

In Appreciation

The Association expressed its appreciation to the government for its efforts in accomplishing the following:

1. the Wildlife Act;
2. the two year extension to the Federal/Provincial forestry agreements;
3. the removal of the import tariff on trees from the United States;

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Nova Scotia Forest Products Association
...continued

4. the regional exclusion of a Federal Export Tax on
lumber manufactured in the region and exported to
the United States; and
5. the tree breeding centre at Debert.

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**Business Meeting
September 16, 1987**

The Chairman opened the meeting by noting the presence of Hansard Recording Services and stated that, with the agreement of members, all future meetings would be recorded by Hansard.

Interim Report - Draft One

Members discussed at length the content and perceived expectations of the above draft report. Several members expressed concern that they were unable to fully report on each industry in their mandate due to the restrictions of time. Since Mr. Gordon Harmer of TIANS was scheduled to appear at this same meeting, the Committee agreed to continue this discussion at its next meeting on September 23 and decided to meet in Lunenburg, N. S.

TOURISM INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

September 16, 1987

Witness: Mr. Gordon Harmer
 Chief Executive Officer

In opening remarks, the Witness informed the Committee of the successes of past and current projects of TIANS.

Points Raised

Summer of 1987

Statistics show a considerable increase in motor vehicle traffic from other parts of Canada, with a slight decrease in US motor vehicle traffic over the 1986 figures. The US traffic, however, is on par with 1985 levels and the increased 1986 figures have been attributed to widespread American concern over global terrorism at that time.

Events such as the International Gathering of the Clans and the Buskers Festival generated a lot of tourist activity throughout the province. However, as pointed out by a Committee member, not all places in the province benefitted from the increase in tourist traffic this summer. In fact, consumer spending actually dropped in some areas. It was felt that, among other things, this could be attributed to:

- a) the need to develop new marketing strategies, and
- b) the fact that consumer spending was being more widely distributed as a result of an increase in the number of tourist-oriented businesses opening up all over the province.

Sea-Sell Project

Representatives from all facets of the tourism industry in the province were aboard the Scotia Prince as it was docked in Boston Harbour. An estimated 10,000 potential tourists, as well as 700 travel agents, visited the ship and the response was extremely positive. More than 90%

Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia
...continued

of the visitors to the ship indicated their interest in visiting Nova Scotia.

One-half of the cost of this venture was covered by the Canada-Nova Scotia Subsidization Agreement.

The selection of the Scotia Prince over the MV Bluenose was made due to a limited time frame. The MV Bluenose will be considered for any other ventures that may come up. The ship was obtained at cost, thus cutting expenses considerably.

Future Events

Travaganza 87

This consumer trade show will be held November 15, 1987 at the World Trade and Convention Centre in an effort to provide marketing opportunities for the tourism industry.

National Tourism Awareness Week

This event will be held May 16-22, 1988 and is designed to promote Canadian tourism and its importance to the country. TIANS will be organizing it and support will be sought from the provincial government.

Projects

The Witness reported that TIANS is about to embark on a pilot project whereby a classification system will be set up on tourist accommodation in Nova Scotia. They anticipate that some funding for this project will come from the Canada-Nova Scotia Subsidization Agreement.

In addition, consultants are currently putting together marketing seminars to upgrade the skills of those in the industry.

Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia
...continued

Bed and Breakfast Establishments

The Witness noted that a working group (TIANS, the Innkeepers Guild and the Department of Tourism) is being set up to look at licensing these establishments and making them subject to inspections.

In reply to concerns expressed by Committee members, the Witness noted that the group intends to meet with operators from all areas of the province before any proposals are made. He further noted that reputable operators have themselves expressed concern over incidents that have been reported to them by tourists.

**Sales Tax Regulations -
Fast Food Outlets**

The Witness reported that there is a great deal of confusion in this area and he has written to the Provincial Tax Commissioner to request that a directive be issued to clarify the process.

Nova Scotia Welcome Mat Program

The Witness noted that although it had a slow start, the program has gained momentum and membership is growing. To become and remain members, operators must maintain certain standards.

Report of the Select Committee on Tourism

The Witness noted that the industry agrees with many of the recommendations, however, they do not agree that the expense of putting a full-time representative in the field is justified. Rather, they feel that this money should be given to area associations so that they can improve their operations.

Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia
...continued

End of Season Closure

Tourist Information Booths and mini-parks close at the Labor Day Weekend, while there are still a fair number of tourists in the province who require their services. The industry is aware of this problem and is currently looking for solutions. Staffing is a major concern, since most employees are students who return to school after the Labor Day Weekend.

Business Meeting
September 23, 1987

The Committee met at the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic to continue their review of the first draft of the Interim Report. After considerable discussion, it was decided that this issue could not be resolved today. There were many concerns raised about the mandate of the Committee, and what was expected in the way of content of this report.

A tentative Fall Agenda was set to include, the Department of the Environment, the Ecology Action Centre and the Independent Seafood Producers Association of Nova Scotia.

Following the meeting, each of the above groups was invited to attend and firm dates were set for meetings with the Ecology Action Centre and the Department of the Environment. However, on two occasions, meetings set with the Independent Seafood Producers Association of Nova Scotia had to be cancelled due to the ill health of the witness.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

October 14, 1987

Witnesses: Mr. Arthur Abbott
Deputy Minister

Mr. John Turner
Director of Field Services

Mr. Arthur Crouse
Director of Environmental Assessment

Mr. Donald Waugh
Chief Environmental Development

Mr. Howard Windsor
Co-ordinator for Hazardous Waste

Mr. John Underwood
Environmental Analyst

In his opening remarks, Mr. Abbott reported briefly on the past accomplishments, current projects and future goals of his department. He then distributed to the Committee two documents: 1) Report of the National Task Force on Environment and Economy (September 1987), and 2) The Report of the Minister's Task Force on Hazardous Waste Management (April 1987).

Landfill and Waste Management

During the past three years, the department has made substantial grants to various provincial communities in an effort to upgrade sewer collection and treatment facilities.

A number of municipal dump sites around the province are monitored at least once a year by means of sampling their groundwater but the department feels responsibility for municipal dump sites lies with the community itself. Some communities have come together to develop a centralized disposal system and the department find that very encouraging.

Department of the Environment
...continued

In an effort to address concerns about the harmful effects of the incineration of waste, the department has extended its program of assistance to municipalities to included other options to incineration. However, the most traditional form of assistance is in the development of landfill sites. It is the role of the department to provide technical and financial assistance and to approve the site chosen by the community, from an environmental aspect.

The Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers is currently investigating the health effects (i.e. the formation of dioxins) resulting from the burning of municipal garbage. However, at present these open burning sites are not being monitored.

Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour Pollution

In this area, there are literally no sewage systems and effluent appears to be flowing into ditches or directly into the harbours. The Department of the Environment is well aware of the situation and are attempting to deal with it. Some of the problems associated with this issue are:

- the amount of cover over the rock in that area is very limited and therefore, normal septic tanks and disposal fields are inappropriate; and
- the very high cost involved in this particular case.

The department is looking into other possibilities (i.e. the clustering of a small number of homes into a manageable size with respect to the provision of this type of service and/or the development of a well-designed system that would not only serve the entire community, but do it economically as well). They have dealt with one problem associated with this situation and that is, the seaweed plant. It has been monitored for approximately two years and is under a ministerial order to contain and maintain their effluent within certain allowable limits. They have been complying.

Department of the Environment
...continued

Disposal of Fish Waste

A recommendation has been given to the Minister that one permit be issued this year for a salt fish waste disposal site (a land burial site). The high salt content of salt fish waste precludes it from being treated in a normal reduction plant.

The department has experienced problems with the disposal of herring waste in recent years. They are currently working on proposals which will eliminate land burial of herring waste, because it causes too many environmental problems. The only viable option appears to be dumping at sea. This solution has been discussed with the federal Department of Fisheries, who are in disagreement with it.

A Committee member suggested that the department will have to deal with the disposal of dogfish waste as a new market appears to be opening up. He noted some of the problems associated with the disposal of dogfish waste, as follows:

- the quantities of waste are not high enough to warrant ocean dumping.
- dogfish is not able to be processed in a fish-meal operation because of its texture. It is so tough that it can break the processing equipment.

The following suggestions were put forward:

- the department could conduct studies into the toxicity of dogfish waste and the viability of disposing of it in a burial site.
- ocean dumping, probably the best solution, could possibly be made more feasible through a pooling of the industry and/or through government assistance.

Ocean Dumping

It was suggested by a Committee member that observers be placed aboard any vessel that does ocean dumping to ensure that dumping is done within prescribed zones. As this falls within the jurisdiction of the Federal

Department of the Environment
...continued

Department of Fisheries, the Witnesses stated that the department would make a recommendation to them.

Unsightly Premises Act

In many instances, it is difficult to get home or business owners to clean up their property. In addition to being unsightly, some cases actually pose a threat to the environment. The difficulty is in getting any one municipal or provincial government body to accept responsibility for enforcing the Act. The Department of the Environment takes action when the situation creates a problem with the watercourse but, when the problem is one of aesthetics, they feel it should be dealt with on a municipal level.

St. Croix River, Hants County

In 1986, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, which has jurisdiction, approved the cut-off of the flow in the St. Croix River for maintenance purposes, without informing the Department of the Environment.

It was noted by a Committee member that the riverbed is still covered in approximately four feet of mud, despite the fact that the NDP caucus has kept the Department of the Environment and the federal Department of Fisheries apprised of this situation. The Witnesses agreed to look into the matter.

Canning Chemical Warehouse

A Committee member expressed his concern that the department did not react immediately to a phone call they received last summer from Maple Leaf Farms Ltd. in which the caller sought advice on the reconstruction of their chemical warehouse.

The Witnesses noted that the caller did not indicate the proposed site for this reconstruction. The department did not learn until last week that the intent was to use

Department of the Environment
...continued

the existing site. The department held a meeting on October 13, with representatives of Maple Leaf Farms, representatives from the Village of Canning and the wardens of the County of Kings. At this meeting, it was agreed that Maple Leaf Farms were moving too fast toward the reconstruction of their Canning warehouse on the same site. There appeared to have been some confusion in the application to rebuild. Maple Leaf Farms Ltd., however, has made a commitment not to proceed at this point.

**Contaminated Soil
-Kentville**

A large pile of contaminated soil, which had been removed from the basement of a downtown Kentville building after the concrete had been found to be contaminated, was left sitting on a lot which is situated in the busiest and most crowded part of the town. This resulted in the contaminated soil blowing all over the downtown area and being tracked into homes and offices.

The Witnesses stated that this soil had been excavated without their knowledge in late July or early August. Extensive testing was done on the material to determine whether dioxins were present. Results were obtained in the first week of October and it was determined that no dioxins were present and the bulk of the material could be landfilled. One area of the soil, however, was found to have a higher than normal concentration of Dinoseb and that material was to be barrelled, contained and disposed of at an approved disposal facility.

The Committee member noted that he had been informed that this soil (other than the material that had been contained) had been disposed of in the vicinity of the banks of the Cornwallis River.

Aerial Spraying

A Committee member expressed concern that aerial spraying had taken place over a residential subdivision of the Town of Wolfville and the No. 1 highway on the 17th and 18th of September.

Department of the Environment
...continued

It was noted that the Deputy Minister had met with the owner of Maritime Aerial Spray Limited and as a result, recommendations will be made to the Minister in this regard. In the meantime, the owner of the company, Mr. Hobbs, has given his assurance that the pilot involved will not fly again this year in Nova Scotia.

Pest Control Products Act

A Pest Control Advisory Committee was established one year ago under the Pest Control Act. It has reviewed a set of draft regulations, which hopefully will be finalized and implemented in 1988. A Committee member requested that the Committee be given a copy of these draft regulations. The Witnesses agreed to pass the request on to the Minister.

Abandoned Gas Tanks

Although it is difficult to get all the required information from industry without regulations, the Department has managed to compile a partial inventory of tanks. It is anticipated that regulations (which have been developed in concert with other Atlantic Provinces and industry) to control the use of petroleum tanks will soon be received by government and put into effect.

Acid Rain

This province has not entered into an acid rain agreement with the federal government as it is attempting to secure some kind of a written agreement with them in which they would acknowledge (as verbally agreed to in 1985) that some federal financial participation, of an unspecified amount, is required.

The Department has found the Nova Scotia Power Corporation to be very cooperative in the whole effort of reducing acid emissions.

Members of the Department sit on an environmental committee with the New England Governors and the Eastern

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Canadian Premiers, which is now in the final stages of producing a map that shows the sensitive areas in all of Eastern Canada and the New England States.

Experimental liming is being carried out at present by both the federal and provincial fisheries in the Timber Lake and Sissiboo River areas. One major concern is the very high cost associated with an operation of this kind.

In monitoring the levels of acid rain in this province, all indications are that there has been a decrease since 1980, although it is difficult to say if this trend will continue.

ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE

November 25, 1987

Witnesses: Ms. Lesley Griffiths
 Director

 Ms. Christine Pekarik
 Communications Officer

 Ms. Susan Holz
 Senior Researcher

Prior to their opening remarks, the Witnesses distributed a number of brochures and pamphlets produced by their organization which was formed in 1971, as a non-profit organization working in the public interest on environmental affairs. They spoke on the history and goals of the Ecology Action Centre.

Points Raised

Funding

For the most part, funding comes from memberships, donations and fundraising efforts. Recently, however, the production of a computerized bibliography for their resource centre was funded through a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. The Centre feels that the provincial government should be providing them with core funding as they do for other organizations such as the Writer's Federation of Nova Scotia, etc.

Mandate

The Witnesses noted that their mandate is to provide education, advocacy and action. In addition to a large number of pamphlets/publications, they address these issues as follows:

-Education

- The Resource Centre of the organization contains over 6,000 items and is actively used by people from all walks of life. The Centre receives information regularly from groups across Canada, and all over the world.

Ecology Action Centre
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- Their publication, 'Between the Issues', comes out six times a year and covers local, national and international issues.
- On Mondays at 5:30 p.m., the organization hosts a radio show on 97.5 CKDU, entitled 'Earth Action'.
- They have produced a household waste information kit that has been in great demand.

-Advocacy

The Centre is actively involved at both the national and provincial level, in the consultation processes of Environment Canada and is currently helping to draft Canada's Environmental Protection Act. As well, they are active in both the Canadian Environmental Network and the Atlantic Environmental Network.

-Action

The Centre has members sitting on a committee with the Department of Development, the Department of the Environment and the forestry industry to develop and demonstrate the value and efficiency of manual clearing practices as opposed to the use of herbicides. This committee has been active for about a year and one-half. Although no firm plan has been decided upon, it is anticipated that experiments will start in the Spring of 1988.

Energy

Concerns raised by the Witnesses:

- Intervener funding should be provided by the Public Utilities Board to encourage citizen involvement.
- Although they were pleased by the Premier's recent announcement in Louisiana, they are still concerned with the lack of pollution control on existing coal-fired plants.

**Ecology Action Centre
...continued**

- They would like to see the Power Corporation adopt some innovative practices, currently in use in many other parts of North America, that would produce energy in a more efficient manner.
- The promotional advertising by the Power Corporation of its use of herbicides to clear utility rights of way, which was done in the late 1970's, appears to be again underway.
- The Centre is very concerned about the lack of environmental impact assessment legislation in this province.

A Committee member expressed concern over the practice of the Dept. of the Environment to inform the public after (rather than before) permits for pesticide and herbicide use had been issued. The Ecology Action Centre has opposed this practice ever since the N.S. Environmental Protection Act was put in place. They would like to see the Act revamped to incorporate formal impact assessment, as is the policy in most other provinces, OR replaced by proper impact assessment legislation; and suggested that impact studies be done.

Department of the Environment

The Witnesses noted that they have developed quite a productive relationship with the Department although there is still room for improvement.

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